



## COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID/OFDA

*Children whose lives have been interrupted by conflict now have a chance to catch up on their education, thanks to USAID-sponsored rehabilitation of schools.*

### LIBERIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1847  
Population: 3.4 million (2004)  
Income per person: \$110 (yr)

*Source: World Bank Development Indicators*

### USAID IN LIBERIA

[www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan\\_africa/countries/liberia](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/countries/liberia)

### OVERVIEW

Liberia is a fragile state emerging from decades of destabilization and poor governance. Peaceful elections held in October and November 2005 ended the transition and ushered in a period of hope and high expectations for recovery and reform. However, decades of destabilization, poor governance, and the consequences of 14 years of brutal conflict constitute overwhelming challenges to Liberia's recovery process. The armed conflicts between 1989 and 2003 claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people in a country of approximately 3 million people. Central and local governments were virtually rendered non-existent and unable to provide essential basic security, a fundamental justice system, and basic services such as water, electricity, health, education, and road maintenance. To revive Liberia's post-war economy USAID has focused on the creation of economic and social conditions at the community level to reintegrate and rehabilitate ex-combatants and others affected by the war; job creation and income generation; the reconstruction of basic infrastructure; the reintegration of women and children associated with the fighting forces; agricultural productivity; elections, rule of law, and governance activities; and increased availability of essential primary health care services.



### PROGRAMS

#### COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND REINTEGRATION

USAID's nationwide public works program that establishes community-based construction brigades of skilled and semi-skilled tradesmen and unskilled laborers to rehabilitate urban and rural roads and water systems, community buildings, hospitals, clinics, schools, and community offices. To date, this program has employed more than 15,000 ex-combatants and other unemployed Liberians, and resulted in the improvement of over 1,500 kilometers of road and repaired clinics, schools and administrative buildings. Additionally, programs targeting women and children formerly associated with fighting forces offer psychological counseling and specialized training, and counseling and other services are provided to displaced Liberians, refugees, ex-combatants and others affected by war to help them reestablish their communities and resume normal lives. Through USAID assistance, thousands of children associated with the fighting

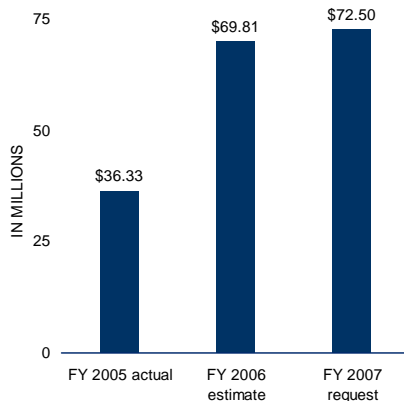


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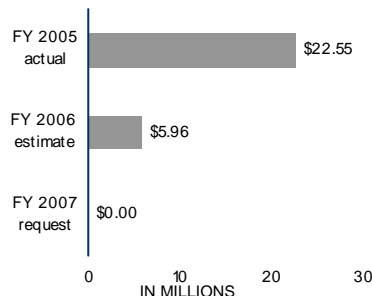
**LIBERIA**

## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA



### USAID FOOD AID TO LIBERIA



For more information, see the  
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification  
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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forces have been reunited with their families. To encourage ex-combatants and other war-affected persons to return to their communities of origin, USAID provides training in agriculture, masonry, roof tiling, and business skills. In addition, USAID is expanding activities to diversify crops and increase market access.

Decades of poor governance and civil war have devastated Liberia's formal public education system and created a tremendous need for informal, accelerated learning opportunities for ex-combatant and noncombatant youth and young adults. USAID has championed the resumption of the United Nations Children's Fund's Accelerated Learning Program, which condenses the normal primary school curriculum from six years into three. USAID also funds the rehabilitation of schools and teacher training facilities; provides educational equipment, textbooks, materials and supplies; and supports curriculum development.

### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

USAID effectively and substantially contributed to the conduct of historic and successful national elections in October and November 2005. USAID, UN, and other donor support enabled the Liberia's National Elections Commission to effectively administer voter registration at 2,000 voter registration sites for an estimated 1.3 million eligible voters; civic and voter education; and election day voting at 3,070 polling stations. USAID support for political party development helped to build a more representative and competitive multiparty system in Liberia by improving political party capacity for internal organization; policy and platform development. Presidential and Senatorial debates focused on candidate platforms, issues of concern to the electorate such as conflicts of interest and candidate backgrounds. Civil society organizations have received support to increase their civic advocacy activities related to elections, corruption, conflict mitigation, and human rights. Peace-building programs will expand the numbers of mediators and peace advocates and encourage communities to interact.

### IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

USAID is rehabilitating Liberia's community health care by supporting rural clinics and community health services and strengthening organizations that promote and deliver health care. To reduce child mortality USAID services include immunizations, micronutrient supplementation, and care of children suffering from pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, nutritional deficiencies, malaria and measles. USAID collaborated with the World Health Organization and other donors to immunize over 1 million children against polio in four rounds of nation-wide immunization campaigns.